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Bureau of Land Management - Colorado



April 16, 2010

BLM in the Spotlight

Symposium on BLM National Landscape Conservation System

*By Deanna Masterson,
BLM Public Affairs Specialist*



Dominguez Escalante NCA

The Center of the American West, the Bureau of Land Management and conservation leaders from throughout the nation gathered to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the National Landscape Conservation System April 14-15, 2010.

The 10th anniversary event began with a keynote address from BLM Director Bob Abbey, kicking off a day-long series of panel discussions on the NLCS on topics including Understanding the NLCS, Competing Values, Democracy in Action; and the Conservation Mission in the Era of Climate Change. The public symposium concluded with a discussion with former Department of the Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary David Hayes.

The BLM's National Landscape Conservation System is an extraordinary, but under-recognized, collection of treasured public lands. These uplifting landscapes, home to rich and intricate ecosystems, have been designated for special care because of their remarkable scientific, historical, or cultural values. Managed cooperatively through unusual partnerships committed to sustaining their unique values, these landscapes are both places of inspiration and crucial undertakings in twenty-first century conservation.

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Employee Spotlight

Say Hello to Geoffrey McManus!

In January of this year the BLM Colorado State Office welcomed Geoffrey McManus as the new State Engineer. McManus spent six years as a U.S. Air Force Civil Engineer Officer working in North Carolina, Florida, and the Republic of Honduras.

In his time with the U.S. Air Force, McManus worked in emergency management; contract management; and nuclear, biological and chemical defense. Most recently he served as the Construction and Civil Design Project Manager for URS Corporation based out of Tallahassee, Florida.

McManus, who holds a Bachelor of

The NLCS includes more than 886 federally recognized areas and approximately 27 million acres of National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and Conservation Lands of the California Desert.

"We want to engage Americans from Alaska to Florida in helping us mark a decade of the NLCS," said BLM Director Bob Abbey. "These landscapes are treasured for their exceptional resources, but, equally as important, they also provide us with a sense of a vast and wild America that is part of our heritage."

To find out more about the panel discussions and events visit our [event page](#). To learn more about the NLCS, visit our [National page](#). In Colorado, the BLM manages 65 NLCS areas encompassing more than one million acres.

To find out more about these areas in Colorado, visit us [online](#).

BLM Seeks Nominations to Resource Advisory Councils

The Bureau of Land Management in Colorado announced today that it is seeking public nominations for several open positions on its three Resource Advisory Councils, which advise the BLM on public land issues.

Please select the link below specific to the area you would like to apply for:

[Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council](#)

[Southwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council](#)

[Front Range Colorado Resource Advisory Council](#)

Durango Federal Employees Help Navajo Nation

*By Ann Bond, USFS
Public Affairs
Specialist*



DURANGO – The Durango Federal Employee Association spearheaded a community effort this winter to donate snowshoes and cross-country skis to Navajo Nation tribal members coping with record snows.

San Juan Forestry Technician Laura Stransky was contacted via email by tribal member Nelson Roanhorse, who had worked on the San Juan's old Animas RD in the 1970s. Nelson

Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois, is a Professional Engineer and a LEED Accredited Professional.

When he is out of the office, McManus enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, mountain biking, skiing, snowboarding and canoeing; and plays basketball, football and baseball.

Ask BLM

Question:

What percentage of Colorado's coal production comes from federal leases?

Answer:

More than 80 percent. Colorado ranks second in the nation behind Wyoming in federal coal production.

If you have something you want to learn about, "Ask BLM" at Colorado_News@blm.gov



told her that the deep snow had made it almost impossible for Navajo ranchers to reach their sheep and cattle for feeding.

With the help of Durango and Farmington media, Laura got the word out to employees, retirees and the community. She was able to collect 13 pairs of snowshoes and 12 pairs of crosscountry skis from individuals and businesses in the area.

Laura and husband, Kip, along with San Juan retiree Wayne Dunn, and current San Juan employees Dee Lewis and Rodney Brashear made three deliveries of equipment to the Farmington BLM Office.

There, former San Juan employees Terry Woodall and Vicki Switzer collected the gear for Roanhorse, who made three trips from Window Rock to pick up the donations.

"Several of the recipients had never used skis or snowshoes before, but some have to travel miles to reach their livestock, and the gear helped tremendously," Laura said.

Navajo weaver Harriet Tracy who raises churro sheep for wool, put her skis to good use.

"Ms. Tracy was able to snowshoe to her sheep pen to feed them daily, a distance of two miles each way," Roanhorse said.

The effort played a small but important role in the larger response effort that included the Navajo Nation Emergency Operations, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and a Type II USFS Incident Command Team. The agencies and volunteers worked out of Window Rock, Arizona, to help get food and supplies delivered to Navajo families in need, while the National Guard airlifted supplies to homes on the reservation that were unreachable by land.

"It was amazing to be part of this outreach of one community to another," Stransky said.

In the News

Boulder forum aims to help BLM devise conservation plan (April 14) - Federal Bureau of Land Management stewards who control millions of acres across Colorado and other Western states are considering how best to protect it.

Federal Agencies Agree To Help Sage Grouse In West (April 13) - CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Farmers and ranchers in 11 western states should be able to protect both their operations and sage grouse habitat through an agreement between two federal agencies.

Interior Department holds memorial for Fish and Wildlife

Places to Visit

Garden Park Fossil Area

Location

Six miles north of Cañon City, Colorado.

Description

Fossils of well-known species of late Jurassic (156-140 million years ago) dinosaurs have been discovered at this site over the last 120 years. Many of the dinosaur fossils from this site are on exhibit at museums around the country, including the Denver Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. Fossils of two-legged, plant-eating dinosaurs, dinosaur eggs, and dinosaur tracks have also been discovered in the Garden Park Fossil Area. In addition to dinosaur bones, Garden Park contains two significant, rare plant species, Brandegees buckwheat and wheel milkweed. Garden Park is a BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern, a Colorado Research Natural Area, and a National Natural Landmark.

Directions

From U.S. Highway 50 in Cañon City, go north on Reynolds Avenue to Field Avenue, which becomes the Garden Park-Shelf Road, part of the Gold Belt Tour National Scenic Byway. The fossil area is about 6 miles north of Cañon City.

Visitor Activities

Fossil viewing, scenic drives, hiking, picnicking, interpretation, bird watching, rare plant viewing, and wildlife viewing.

Special Features

The Cleveland Quarry is where scientists in the 1950s spotted dinosaur bones protruding from the base of a cliff next to Fourmile Creek. The skeleton of this huge plant-eating

Service's Sam Hamilton (Apri 12) - A bald eagle flew through the assembled crowd at the Interior Department's Sidney Yates auditorium Friday morning, marking the unconventional start to a memorial honoring the late director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sam Hamilton.

Rare dinosaur discovered in Dominguez–Escalante National Conservation Area (April 10) - MESA COUNTY, COLO. (KKCO) - Sixteen years of patience and tedious work is paying off for a researcher. He believes he's found a skull bone of an extremely rare dinosaur.

Recreation-energy balance for land vital, official says (April 10) - New rules governing oil and gas leasing on federal lands will likely involve greater public participation in leasing, the new head of the state office of the Bureau of Land Management said.

BLM swears in two more law enforcement officers GRAND JUNCTION, COLO. (KKCO) (April 9) - The Grand Junction BLM now has two more law enforcement rangers.

Watch for dead trees, Vail Valley campers (April 9) - VAIL — When Vail resident Clay Walberg camps this summer, he'll avoid clusters of dead trees.

Ritter roadless plan meets mixed reaction (April 7) - Gov. Bill Ritter submitted on Tuesday a revised plan to protect 4.2 million acres of roadless public lands across the state, including some pristine areas on the White River National Forest.

Project creates habitat for San Juan trout (April 5) - FARMINGTON - The Bureau of Land Management has put 26 boulders in the San Juan River near Navajo Dam to improve fishing conditions.

Recent Press Releases

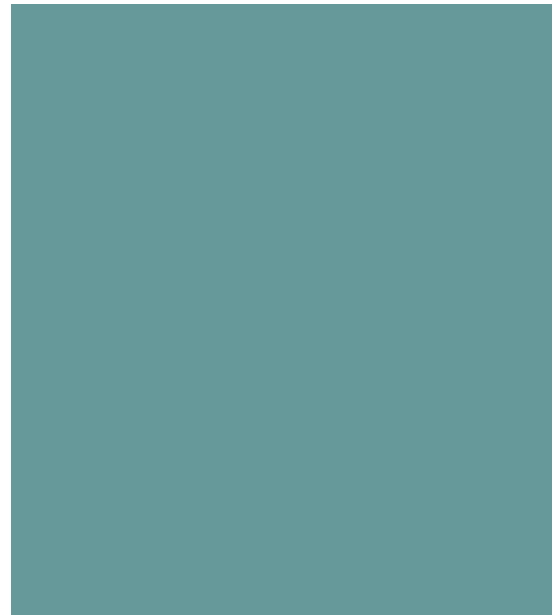
- [BLM Uncompahgre Accepting Comments on Special Recreation Permit \(04/16/10\)](#)
- [BLM Colorado Honors Volunteer of the Year Award Recipient JudyAnn Files \(4/16/10\)](#)
- [Prescribed burn planned on BLM land in Eagle County \(4/15/10\)](#)
- [Spring Weather Allows BLM to Open Hartman Rocks Recreation Area in Gunnison \(4/15/10\)](#)
- [27¼ Road shooting range closed Saturday Morning \(4/14/10\)](#)

dinosaur is now displayed at the Cleveland (Ohio) Museum of Natural History. The Cleveland Quarry recreation site, adjacent to the quarry and the creek, features interpretive exhibits, a picnic area, and restrooms. Marsh Quarry, with a 0.25-mile, self-guided interpretive trail, is located about 0.1 mile north of the Cleveland Quarry. The Marsh Quarry is where the first Stegosaurus fossil in the world was discovered in 1876 by local rancher Marshall P. Felch. The parking area is on the west side of the road. The trail provides views of Marsh Quarry, the site of notable dinosaur discoveries from 1876 through 1888, including fossils of Allosaurus, Diplodocus, Stegosaurus, and others.

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- [BLM Colorado Honors COPMOBA \(4/14/10\)](#)
- [BLM Finalizes Rules for Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area \(4/14/10\)](#)
- [Colorado company awarded \\$880,000 in stimulus funding to replace Park Center Well \(4/12/10\)](#)
- [Rare Dinosaur Found in Dominguez-Escalante NCA \(4/10/10\)](#)
- [BLM Front Range Resource Advisory Council to meet \(4/09/10\)](#)
- [Prescribed Fires Planned in West Central Colorado \(4/08/10\)](#)



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